

Serial No. 09/940,410

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original) A method for bonding a coating to a material web, comprising the steps of:

- ab
- (a) bonding the coating and the material web together by glue;
 - (b) heating the material web having the coating bonded thereto; and
 - (c) removing air between the coating and the material web to thereby provide thorough bonding between the coating and the material web.

Claim 2 (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of removing air between the coating and the material web is achieved by an aspirating means.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising forcibly blowing air to the material web/coating in step (c) along a direction of ~~[[the]]~~ air removal ~~direction~~.

Claim 4 (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a step of cooling the material web/coating after step (c).

Claim 5 (original) An apparatus for bonding a coating to a material web, the apparatus comprising:

- a first feeding roller for feeding a material web;
- a second feeding roller for feeding a coating;
- a glue-applying roller for applying glue to a face of the coating from the second feeding roller;

- a heating roller, the material web and the glued coating being bonded together before passing through the heating roller, the heating roller heating the material web having the glued coating bonded thereto; and

- means for removing air between the material web/coating that has been heated by the heating roller.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as claimed in claim ~~[[5]]~~ 21, wherein the material web is a web of spandex mesh.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as claimed in claim ~~[[5]]~~ 21, wherein the material web is a web of foam.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as claimed in claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein the step of removing air comprises providing air removing means, wherein the air

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removing means comprises at least one aspiration cylinder through which the heated material web/coating passes, said at least one aspiration cylinder comprises a longitudinal chamber and a plurality of vents in an outer periphery thereof and communicated with the longitudinal chamber, the longitudinal chamber having an outlet, the air removing means further comprising an aspiration means having an inlet communicated with the outlet of the longitudinal chamber.

Claim 9 (original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, further comprising an air supply system for blowing air to the material web/coating passing through the air-removing means.

ab Claim 10 (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising ~~an air supply system for~~ blowing air to the material web/coating passing through said at least one aspiration cylinder.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising ~~a reel for~~ reeling the material web/coating that has passed through ~~[[aid]]~~ said at least one aspiration cylinder.

Claim 13 (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as claimed in claim ~~[[5]]~~ 21, further comprising providing a cooling roller between the reel and the air-removing means.

Claim 14 (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising providing a cooling roller between the reel and the air-removing means.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as claimed in claim ~~[[5]]~~ 8, wherein the air-removing means is a vacuum pump.

Claim 16 (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as claimed in claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein the step of removing air comprises providing air removing means, wherein the air removing means comprises an aspiration bed through which the heated material web/coating passes, the aspiration bed comprising a central chamber and a plurality of vents communicated with the central chamber, the central chamber having an outlet, the air removing means further comprising an aspiration means having an inlet communicated with the outlet of the central chamber.

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Claim 17 (currently amended) The **apparatus method** as claimed in claim 16, further comprising ~~a reel for~~ reeling the material web/coating that has passed through the air-removing means.

Claim 18 (currently amended) The **apparatus method** as claimed in claim 17, further comprising **providing** a cooling roller between the reel and the air-removing means.

Claim 19 (currently amended) The **apparatus method** as claimed in claim ~~[[5]]~~ **1**, wherein the coating is transparent.

Claim 20 (currently amended) The **apparatus method** as claimed in claim 6, wherein the coating is transparent.

ab Claim 21 (new) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bonding step comprises:

providing a first feeding roller for feeding the material web,

providing a second feeding roller for feeding the coating, and

providing a glue-applying roller for applying glue to a face of the coating from the second feeding roller;

wherein the heating step comprises providing a heating roller, with the material web and the glued coating being bonded together before passing through the heating roller, with the heating roller heating the material web having the glued coating bonded thereto; and

wherein the step of removing air between the material web/coating and the material web comprises removing air that has been heated by the heating roller.
